

The Catholic Register

PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AT 119 WELLINGTON ST. WEST, TORONTO

Subscriptions: In City, including delivery \$1.50; To all outside Canadian points 1.00; United States and Foreign 1.50

Approved and recommended by the Archbishops, Bishops and Clergy.

Advertising Rates: Transient advertisements 15 cents a line. A liberal discount on contracts.

JOSEPH COULAHAN is authorized to collect among our Toronto subscribers.

THURSDAY, JAN. 2ND, 1908.

A WORD WITH OUR SUBSCRIBERS AND ADVERTISERS.

The ancient and venerable practice of taking a retrospective survey of the things of the year just past, is to be commended for many reasons.

From a business standpoint the outlook is on a plane never before attained. The management of the paper is now in new hands, those of The Electric Publishing Company, of which Mr. George Plunkett Magann is President.

The reception given our first Christmas number was such as to encourage us to greater things in future. The advertising patronage given us by the best part of our city's merchants as seen by the columns of our special number, speaks their opinion in a form more tangible than words.

The hard times cry, we are happy to say, has not been materially felt by us in the matter of returns from either subscribers or advertisers, for while we have many old accounts in arrears, those of present-day standing are by no means numerous.

To our subscribers and advertisers, then, we offer the expression of our thanks for their allegiance and support. To the many contributors, too, who from time to time have found place in our columns, we tender our gratitude for the past and our hearty invitation to honor our columns frequently in the future.

The aims of our paper are simple, though we hope to find them effective. If we succeed in supplying the homes of our Catholic people with a readable paper, containing instruction and elevating material, we shall consider our self-appointed task fulfilled.

In conclusion we would ask for and hope to be able to keep, a continuance of the support of all our patrons whom we should like to see increase manifold. The erection of the new building and other outlay has fallen more or less on the company, and to help defray this, further support will be appreciated.

MISSIONARY ACTIVITY IN THE UNITED STATES.

The last number of the "Catholic Forester," the organ of the Catholic Order of Foresters in Canada and the neighboring Republic, gives an inspiring glimpse of the missionary spirit

which is being rapidly developed in Uncle Sam's territory. In an editorial this paper refers in terms of the highest commendation to the choice of Father Burke of New York, by the Archbishops of the United States, for the leadership of a Catholic crusade for the conversion of the colored race in that land.

Too high praise cannot be bestowed on the wisdom of the Archbishops of the United States on the one hand, in their method of grappling with a great missionary problem, and on the other hand in the organ of the Catholic Order of Foresters for its generous support. There can be no doubt that the great underlying cause of the little interest taken in missionary work by Catholics on this side of the Atlantic has been the lack of any systematic effort to stir up their enthusiasm in this matter.

In subsequent articles the bearing of this momentous move of our neighbors on Canadian Catholic life will be discussed in some detail with the object of awaking a similar spirit in our midst.

THE CHURCH AND THE BIBLE.

Now that Pope Pius X. has signaled his reign by his wonderful defence of the Bible and by the formation of a Biblical Commission, a new impulse will undoubtedly be given to a greater use of the Bible in the Church as a book of devotion. It is not long since "our friend, the enemy" taunted us with locking up the Bible. They seem to have wearied of this cry, or they have found it did not pay. For our part we should prefer seeing the Bible locked up to seeing it treated the way that it has been used outside the Church.

The idea of socialism is surely approaching. Its form at present is indefinite. Something, claim its advocates, must be done to ameliorate the conditions which now weigh so heavily upon the majority. What that something is can be better described by what it is not than by what it is.

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Bible at their fingers' ends could have saved the Middle Age teachers from abuses and false doctrines, they were certainly well equipped. They had their minds saturated with the language and associations of the sacred text as the Puritans of the seventeenth century.

THE EVIL OF EASY MARRIAGES

In the same issue of the Catholic Forester in which appeared the article on missions to the colored race in the United States, is to be found a no less praiseworthy editorial under the above heading. In this editorial the experience of a Protestant clergyman of New York, whose church was a rendezvous for those who wished to be married in a hurry, and the lessons to be deduced from it, are set forth at some length.

Testimony of this kind is particularly valuable just now, when much attention has been drawn to Catholic marriage laws by a recent enactment of the present Pontiff. The idea seems to prevail that the Pope's action will render it harder for people to enter matrimony. If by matrimony is meant the system of free and easy marriages in which neither the interests of religion nor society are taken into consideration and in which nothing beyond present gratification is consulted, then by all means the Pope wishes to make such a system hard and, as far as he can, impossible.

SOCIALISM.

The idea of socialism is surely approaching. Its form at present is indefinite. Something, claim its advocates, must be done to ameliorate the conditions which now weigh so heavily upon the majority. What that something is can be better described by what it is not than by what it is.

Property being regarded as largely the cause of the social inequalities and as being the chief source of the hardships of the multitude, instead of being looked upon as something sacred, is taken to be legalized robbery. It is essentially wrong, which neither length of possession nor political support nor anything else will make right.

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his coming to Downeyville, where was located the nearest Catholic church, to which he walked Sunday after Sunday to be present at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. From Balford's he went to the Bailey Settlement and taught a number of years in No. 12, Emily, and No. 1, Ops. His work was a success and he did not confine himself to any duty alone, but in his zeal to further the noble work and bring its advantages within the reach of all, he established night schools everywhere he went.

Deceased was interested in every thing concerning the parish at all times, but perhaps in nothing more deeply than in the new Catholic cemetery, that delightful spot where his remains now repose, the fit resting place of a good man and good citizen. May he rest in peace.

The Legal Bar of the Province of Quebec held a special meeting in Hull recently at which a resolution of condolence was passed to Judge L. N. Champagne, whose father, the dean of the Circuit of the Montreal district, died recently in that city.

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OBITUARY

(Special to the Catholic Register.)

From time to time we read of the demise of one or other of the many worthy men and women who have braved the dangers and surmounted the difficulties, trials and hardships of the pioneer life presented by our fair dominion in its early days.

IT RESTS WITH YOU

to say whether I am to succeed or fail, All my hopes of success are in your co-operation. Will you not then extend your co-operating hand? Surely you will not refuse? You may not be able to help much, indeed. But you can help a little, and a multitude of "littles" means a great deal.

Don't Turn a Deaf Ear to My Urgent Appeal

"May God bless and prosper your endeavours in establishing a Mission at Fakenham."

FATHER H. W. GRAY, Catholic Mission, Fakenham, Norfolk, Eng.

P.S.—I will gratefully and promptly acknowledge the smallest donation, and send with my acknowledgment a beautiful picture of the Sacred Heart and St. Anthony.

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